

R 011146Z MAR 90  
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9567  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 00872

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL SOVIET UNION PINR SL  
SUBJECT: SPYING CHARGES AGAINST USSR

REF: A) FBIS 011418Z FEB 90, B) MONROVIA 1175,  
C) FREETOWN 0443, D) STATE 048127

¶1. REFTELS REFER TO SOVIET DENIALS OF ALLEGED U.S. CHARGES OF THEIR SPYING ON U.S. INSTALLATIONS FROM FACILITIES IN SIERRA LEONE. FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION THAT IN FACT WE NEVER MADE SUCH ALLEGATIONS, DCM TRIED TO CALL HIS COUNTERPART AT SOVIET EMBASSY. THE COUNTERPART NEVER RETURNED PHONE CALLS AND WE DECIDED TO PUT OUR EFFORTS ON HOLD UNTIL AN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF.

¶2. THAT OPPORTUNITY CAME ON MONDAY 2/27, WHEN DCM MET NEW SOVIET POLITICAL OFFICER AT INAUGURATION OF A TRAINING COURSE FOR NEW WEST AFRICAN DIPLOMATS. DCM TOOK THE OCCASION TO EXPLAIN OUR PUZZLEMENT WITH THE REPORTS. THE NEXT MORNING DCM RECEIVED A CALL FROM SOVIET DCM WHO INVITED HIM TO SOVIET EMBASSY.

¶3. AT 2/28 MEETING WITH SOVIET DCM GENADI RAISKI AND AMBASSADOR'S SECRETARY/TRANSLATOR KONSTANTINE ALERSEYEV. DCM AGAIN EXPLAINED OUR PUZZLEMENT AND ASSURED SOVIETS WE HAD SENT NO NOTE OR MESSAGE TO GOSL COMPLAINING OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES. RAISKI REPLIED THAT HIS EMBASSY WAS JUST AS PUZZLED BY THE AFFAIR, INDICATING THEY HAD ALSO HEARD OF THE DENIAL FROM TASS THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN MOSCOW. THEY HAD HEARD OF NO REPORTS HERE.

¶4. RAISKI ASKED IF THE EMBASSY MIGHT NOT KNOW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER USG AGENCIES  
DCM REPLIED WE HAD CANVASSED A MULTITUDE OF OTHER AGENCIES AND COULD FIND NO POSSIBLE SOURCE OF THE ALLEGED ACCUSATION.

¶5. RAISKI EXPRESSED RELIEF AT OUR INFORMATION AND INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO EMBASSIES.

¶6. TURNING TO OTHER MATTERS, RAISKI EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THE SERIOUS OF THE SITUATION IN THE SOVIET UNION AND WONDERED ALOUD IF IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER HAD THEY FIRST TRIED TO INTIATE ECONOMIC BEFORE POLITICAL REFORM. HE DEFENDED SOVIET ACTIONS IN AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA POINTING OUT THAT ALL THE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING TO DO WAS STABILIZE THE SITUATION AND STOP THE VIOLENCE. HE SAID THE ETHNIC DIFFERENCES IN THE COUNTRY WERE VERY GREAT AND IT WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME TO RESOLVE. HE WAS CLEARLY PESSIMISTIC ON THE SITUATION.

¶7. TURNING TO THE SIERRA LEONE SCENE, RAISKI EXPRESSED PESSIMISM ON THE SITUATION ASKING THE DCM HIS VIEWS ON DEVALUATION, THE DEFICIT, AND THE IMF. INTERESTINGLY RAISKI DID NOT BELIEVE DEVALUATION WOULD WORK. HE ADVOCATED A FLOATING EXCHANGE RATE THAT WOULD HELP RECHANNEL EXPORT REVENUES TO MORE PRODUCTIVE USES AND WOULD ALLOW FOR A MEETING OF THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE. THE DCM'S OBSERVATION THAT HE SOUNDED LIKE A FIRE MARTIAL ECONOMIST BROUGHT AN APPRECIATIVE LAUGH.

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RAISKI ALSO DISCUSSED SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO NEGOTIATE A NEW FISHING AGREEMENT WITH THE GOSL. HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC. (SEPTEL)

¶8. COMMENT: THE ENTIRE SPY CHARGE EPISODE SEEMS VERY CONFUSED. IT WOULD APPEAR HOWEVER, TO HAVE

ORIGINS OUTSIDE OF SIERRA LEONE. WE HAVE REPORTED  
ON RAISKI BEFORE. HE APPEARS GENUINELY INTERESTED  
IN BETTER RELATIONS, BUT LIKE MANY OF HIS COLLEGUES  
UNSURE OF HOW TO PROCEED AND CONCURED ABOUT OUR RECEP-  
TION TO FRIENDLY MOVES ON HIS PART. PERHAPS WE  
REASSURED HIM.

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